AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

1.(previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula

$$HO\text{-}A\text{-}ONO_2 \qquad (I),$$

wherein A is a C_2-C_6 alkylene chain,

comprising the nitration of a compound of formula

$$HO\text{-}A\text{-}OH \qquad (II),$$

wherein A is as defined above,

with "stabilised" nitric acid.

2.(previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is ethanediol-mononitrate; 1,3-propanediol-mononitrate; 1,4-butanediol-mononitrate; 1,5-pentanediol-mononitrate or 1,6-hexanediol-mononitrate.

3.(currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the "stabilised" nitric acid has a concentration ranging from 83 to 85% and is substantially free from nitrous acid and nitrogen oxides.

4.(currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water-immiscible chlorinated organic solvent.

5.(previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the chlorinated organic solvent is a mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-chloro C_1-C_4-alkyl hydrocarbon.

6.(currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the weight ratio of "stabilised" nitric acid to the compound of formula (II) ranges from 10 : 1 to 15 : 1.

7.(currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the nitration is carried out for a time ranging from 10 to 30 minutes.

8.(currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~, wherein the compound of formula (II) is 1,4-butanediol and the weight ratio of "stabilised" nitric acid to butanediol ranges from 11: 1 to 14.5: 1.

9.(previously presented) Nitration mixture in a water-immiscible organic chlorinated solvent comprising a compound of formula (I), as obtainable by the process of claim 1.

10.(previously presented)"Stabilised" nitric acid characterized in that it has a concentration ranging from 83 to 85% and is substantially free from nitrous acid and nitrogen oxides.